4, Euston Square
N.W.
June 12, 1865.

Confidential

My dear Lord

On the most deliberate reflection, I see nothing to alter in the reply I made to your ~~very frank & free~~ statement. I may ~~tell you~~ now say that I was already aware of what you told me, though I did not think it convenient on my part to raise that ~~part~~ branch of the question myself; but I ~~was~~ am not the less sensible of your own frankness & friendly confidence in telling me. I still rely entirely on the facts I laid before you, which I would recapitulate for your own mature consideration.

The extent of our circulation you know, & we are prepared to establish the fact by figures; but, the gross numbers, (as I stated in conversation) form in truth the least startling ~~characteristic or~~ incident of our statistics. I may declare, ~~to you~~, with the full certainty ~~that~~ ~~enquiry will~~ of them more than confirmed by any enquiry which you may make, that ~~no other~~ our paper is second to none in the character of its circulation. It ~~has~~ commands what, exclusively of the more popular portion, would be accounted a very large circulation among the upper classes,

Confidential

including the very highest in the land. I use the words advisedly, & without any exception. ~~Our correspondence~~, my own observation, ~~&~~ ~~conversation~~, the admission of many with whom I have discussed that point, & above all our immense private correspondence from persons ~~people~~ of all ranks, amply confirm my assertion; which is I think, consistent with what your Lordship has remarked ~~own observation~~.

I say nothing as to the talent with which the paper is conducted, — of that ~~point~~ you can judge better than I can. But if you had time to glance over our files, especially for the last two or three years, you ~~would be~~ could not fail to be struck with another comparison: our paper is second to none in the correctness & authenticity of its information; & within that time it has made fewer mistakes than any. ~~I will add that~~ The information is not limited to our own State, — though of course we are principally anxious on that score. In authority, therefore, our paper stands second to none.

I point with equal ~~courage~~ confidence to the manner in which that information has been used. Our tenure is one which, ipso facto, compels us to be independent in politics,

Liberal in principles, & popular in tone; yet
I am sure that we shall have in Lord Clarence
Paget a witness to the practical character of the tests by which
we judge public questions, ~~to by~~ to the regard which
we have ~~to~~ for <u>working</u> considerations, and ~~to what~~
~~is often vaguely enough to the~~ to our moderation,
or rather, I should say, to our constancy in opposing
excesses or needless divisions among the Liberals.
We claim, then, that we are not to be accounted
second to any in the business-like treatment of
public affairs, ~~while For~~

~~One more a~~

Let ~~me~~ represent ~~one~~ more phase of our
case ~~&~~ I have done. Neither in the extent, ~~of the~~
~~character of~~ nor in the character, of its ~~a~~
circulation, is there any other Liberal paper
that can be compared to our own. We affirm that
in no sense can we be correctly placed in a
secondary class, & that in the sight ~~eyes~~ of any
Liberals whose eyes are opened to the plain
& tangible facts we must be classed as
<u>the</u> leading Liberal daily newspaper.

I remarked, my dear Lord, that I never
~~try to~~ undertake the futile enterprise of
trying to "convince" any man: every man

must convince himself, and another can only assist in the process, by furnishing him with materials for the purpose. In this note I have laid nothing before you but a simple ~~state~~statement of facts — a more precise statement of facts in which you had ~~already~~ shown some interest. ~~I have already explained that the money consid~~eration has little weight with the proprietors, and that, so far as I am personally concerned, that part of the business, "is not in my department;" but ~~I must say that I am not without hope of y the~~ I am, I confess, not without hope that ~~you will not think consider your own judgment will~~ I have also ~~stated~~ declared how little regard I had to the mere ~~money consideration~~; & your answer ~~sho~~ satisfied me that you perfectly understood our feelings in that matter.

And again I say, whatever the issue may be, I must ~~thank~~ you most heartily for the attention you have so kindly given to me.

Believe me to be,

my dear Lord,

very faithfully yours

Thornton Hunt.

of my recent communications with your Lordship on the subject,